

In the Claims:

Claims 1 – 7, 10 – 18 and 23 – 24 are cancelled.

19) (currently amended) A method of alleviating symptoms associated with an autoimmune disease selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, insulin dependent diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis comprising: obtaining a composition comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to an antigen involved in said autoimmune disease, wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof is capable of crosslinking Fc receptors present on the cell surfaces of antigen presenting cells; and administering said composition to an individual suffering from said autoimmune disease.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said composition does not include an adjuvant.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said immunoglobulin is aggregated.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said antigen is associated with an autoimmune disease selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, ~~lupus~~, rheumatoid arthritis, ~~scleroderma~~, and insulin-dependent diabetes. ~~and ulcerative colitis.~~

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said antigen is an antigen from proteolipid protein.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said antigen is an antigen from myelin basic protein.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises at least part of a domain of a constant region of an immunoglobulin molecule.
29. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the immunoglobulin comprises a fusion protein in which said antigen is covalently joined to said immunoglobulin or portion thereof.
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the said antigen is positioned within at least one complementarity determining region of said immunoglobulin to partially or fully replace said complementarity determining region.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said antigen is positioned within CDR3.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said immunoglobulin is a human IgG molecule.
33. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said immunoglobulin is chimeric.
34. (previously presented) A method of reducing disease symptoms in an individual comprising: identifying an individual in need of an increased level of IL-10; and increasing the level of IL-10 in said individual by administering a composition comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to an antigen, wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof is capable of crosslinking Fc receptors present on the cell surfaces of antigen presenting cells.
35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said individual is suffering from an autoimmune disease.

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36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said composition does not include an adjuvant.
38. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said immunoglobulin is aggregated.
39. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said immunoglobulin is immobilized onto a lipid or polymer matrix.
40. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said antigen is associated with an autoimmune disease selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, insulin-dependent diabetes and ulcerative colitis.
41. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said antigen is an antigen from proteolipid protein.
42. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said antigen is from myelin basic protein.
43. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises at least part of a domain of a constant region of an immunoglobulin molecule.
44. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the immunoglobulin comprises a fusion protein in which said antigen is covalently joined to said immunoglobulin or portion thereof.
45. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said antigen is positioned within at

least one complementarity determining region of said immunoglobulin to partially or fully replace said complementarity determining region.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein said antigen is positioned within CDR3.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said immunoglobulin is a human IgG molecule.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said immunoglobulin is chimeric.

49. (previously presented) A method of reducing disease symptoms in an individual comprising: identifying an individual in need of an increased level of IL-10 and in need of stimulation of peripheral tolerance; and increasing the level of IL-10 and stimulating peripheral tolerance in said individual by administering a composition comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to an antigen, wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof is capable of crosslinking Fc receptors present on the cell surfaces of antigen presenting cells.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said individual is suffering from an autoimmune disease.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said composition does not include an adjuvant.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said immunoglobulin is aggregated.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said immunoglobulin is immobilized onto a lipid or polymer matrix.
55. (previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said antigen is associated with an autoimmune disease selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, insulin-dependent diabetes and ulcerative colitis.
56. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein said antigen is from proteolipid protein.
57. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein said antigen is from myelin basic protein.
58. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises at least part of a domain of a constant region of an immunoglobulin molecule.
59. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the immunoglobulin comprises a fusion protein in which said antigen is covalently joined to said immunoglobulin or portion thereof.
62. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said immunoglobulin is a human IgG molecule.
63. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said immunoglobulin is chimeric.
64. (previously presented) A method of reducing disease symptoms in an individual comprising: identifying an individual in need of a reduced level of IFN-gamma; and decreasing the level of IFN-gamma in said individual by administering a composition comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to an antigen, wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof is capable

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of crosslinking Fc receptors present on the cell surfaces of antigen presenting cells.

65. (previously presented) A method of reducing the symptoms of an autoimmune disease resulting from an immune response to a plurality of self antigens comprising: administering a composition comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to an antigen, wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof is capable of crosslinking Fc receptors present on the cell surfaces of antigen presenting cells and wherein said antigen is one of the antigen responsible for said autoimmune disease.